

# National Museum of Mathematics

The **National Museum of Mathematics** or **MoMath**<sup>[1]</sup> is a museum dedicated to mathematics in Manhattan, New York City.<sup>[2][3]</sup> It opened on December 15, 2012. It is located at 11 East 26th Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues, across from Madison Square Park in the NoMad neighborhood. It is the only museum dedicated to mathematics in North America,<sup>[4]</sup> and features over thirty interactive exhibits.<sup>[5][6]</sup> The mission of the museum is to "enhance public understanding and perception of mathematics".<sup>[7]</sup> The museum is known for a special tricycle with square wheels, which operates smoothly on a catenary surface.<sup>[8]</sup>

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## History

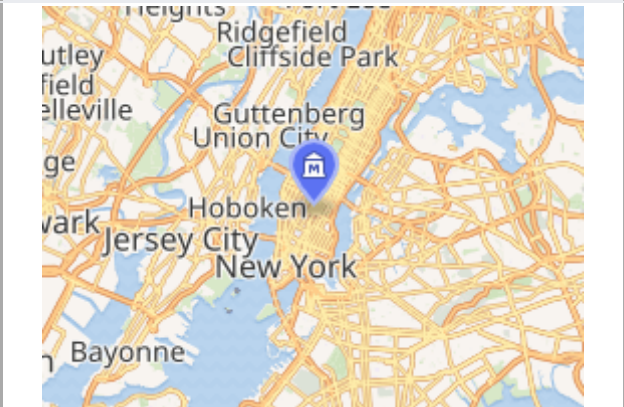
In 2006 the Goudreau Museum on Long Island, at the time the only museum in the United States dedicated to mathematics, closed its doors.<sup>[9]</sup> In response, a group led by founder and former CEO Glen Whitney met to explore the opening of a new museum. They received a charter from the New York State Department of Education in 2009,<sup>[7]</sup> and raised over 22 million dollars in under four years.<sup>[10]</sup>

With this funding, a 19,000 square feet (1,800 m<sup>2</sup>) space was leased in the Goddard Building at 11-13 East 26th Street, located in the Madison Square North Historic District. Despite some opposition to the architectural plans within the local community,<sup>[11]</sup> permission for construction was granted by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Department of Buildings.

### National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath)



Entrance



<b>Established</b>	November 17, 2009 ( <i>chartered</i> )
<b>Location</b>	11 East 26th Street Manhattan, New York City
<b>Coordinates</b>	<span><span><span><span><span>40°44′36″N</span> <span>73°59′15″W</span></span></span><div></div></span></span>
<b>Director</b>	Cindy Lawrence
<b>Public transit access</b>	<b>New York City Subway:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <span><span>N</span> <span>R</span> <span>W</span></span> trains to 23rd Street or 28th Street</li><li>■ <span><span>6</span> <span>6</span></span> trains to 23rd Street or 28th Street</li><li>■ <span><span>F</span> <span>F</span> <span>M</span></span> trains to 23rd Street</li></ul>

## Programs

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- **Math Midway** is a traveling exhibition of math-based interactive displays. The exhibits include a square-wheeled tricycle that travels smoothly over an undulating cycloidal track; the *Ring of Fire*, which uses lasers to intersect three-dimensional objects with a two-dimensional plane to uncover interesting shapes; and an "organ function grinder" which allows users to create their own mathematical functions and see the results.<sup>[12]</sup> After making its debut at the World Science Festival in 2009, Math Midway traveled the country, reaching more than a half million visitors. The Midway's schedule included stops in New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland, Florida, Indiana, and Oregon. In 2016, the Math Midway exhibit was sold to the Science Centre Singapore.
- **Math Midway 2 Go** (MM2GO) is a spinoff of Math Midway. MM2GO includes six of the most popular Math Midway Exhibits. MM2GO began traveling to science festivals, schools, community centers, and libraries in the autumn of 2012.<sup>[13]</sup>
- **Math Encounters** is a monthly speaker series presented by the Museum of Math and the Simons Foundation.<sup>[14]</sup> The lectures initially took place at Baruch College in Manhattan on the first Wednesday of each month, but moved to MoMath's visitor center at 11 East 26th Street in March, 2013. Every month a different mathematician is invited to deliver a lecture. Lecturers have included Google's Director of Research Peter Norvig, journalist Paul Hoffman, and computer scientist Craig Kaplan. Examples of topics are "The Geometry of Origami", "The Patterns of Juggling", and "Mathematical Morsels from The Simpsons and Futurama".<sup>[15]</sup> The lectures are meant to be accessible and engaging for high school students and adults. The first lecture occurred on March 3, 2011. Twenty unique lectures had been delivered as of December 2012.<sup>[16]</sup>
- **Family Fridays** began in April 2014 and occur once a month. MoMath and Time Warner Cable launched the initiative to provide free mathematical opportunities to low-income families in the form of an event series with new activities and presentations each month.<sup>[17]</sup> In 2017, the sponsorship was taken over by Two Sigma.

<b>Port</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Trans-</b>
<b>Hudson:</b>	HOB-33, JSQ-33 (via HOB), or JSQ-33 to 23rd Street	

<b>MTA New York City Bus:</b>	M1, M2, M3, M55, M7, M20
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<b>Website</b>	momath.org ( <a href="http://momath.org/">http://momath.org/</a> )
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## Exhibits

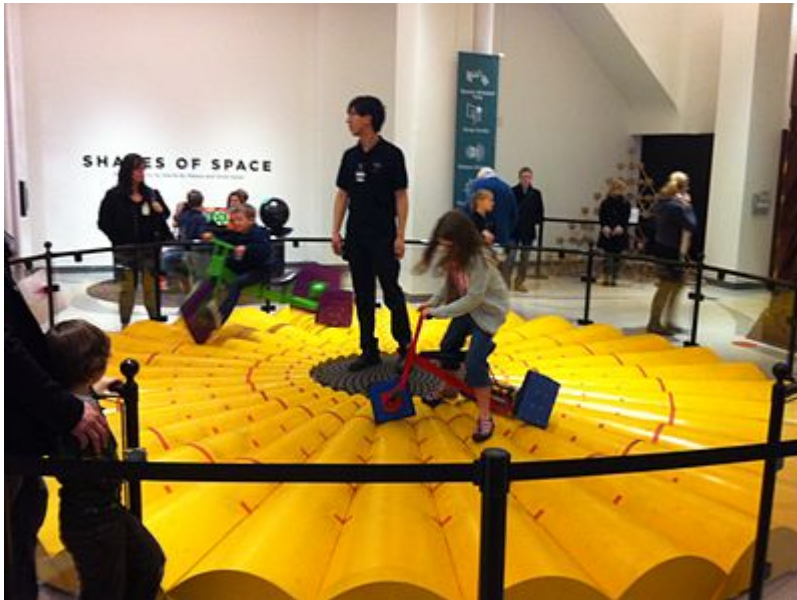
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In October 2016, the exhibit *The Insides of Things: The Art of Miguel Berrocal* was opened, displaying a collection of puzzle sculptures by Spanish artist Miguel Ortiz Berrocal (1933-2006), donated by the late Samuel Sensiper. Each sculpture can be disassembled into small interlocking pieces, eventually revealing a small piece of jewelry or other surprise.<sup>[18]</sup>

## Visiting professorship

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On August 2, 2018 MoMath announced the creation of a Distinguished Chair for the Public Dissemination of Mathematics. Princeton professor and Fields Medal winner Manjul Bhargava was named as the first recipient of this position.<sup>[19]</sup>



Square wheeled tricycles at MoMath

## See also

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- *Mathematica: A World of Numbers... and Beyond* – a classic exhibit of mathematical concepts, organized by Ray and Charles Eames
- Science tourism
- Square wheel

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## External links

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- [Official website \(http://www.momath.org/\)](http://www.momath.org/)
  - [National Museum of Mathematics \(https://twitter.com/MoMath1\)](https://twitter.com/MoMath1) on [Twitter](#) 
  - [Math Encounters \(http://www.mathencounters.org/\)](http://www.mathencounters.org/)
  - [Math Midway \(http://www.MathMidway.org/\)](http://www.MathMidway.org/)
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